

sums to finish relocating its capital, malnutrition is rising and thousands are dying from treatable diseases like malaria and tuberculosis. This tragic failure calls into question the Burmese junta's willingness and ability to protect and improve the well-being of its people.

Burma's people are not alone in facing the consequences of their government's actions: the country's deterioration poses a real danger to its neighbors and—in today's interconnected world—even to those far away. The drug trade and trafficking in persons are rampant; both flow across porous borders and spread corruption, political instability and disease.

America will persist in its strategy to increase international pressure on Burma by working with individual governments and regional organizations, such as the European Union, to seek to return the country to its people through a transparent, inclusive political process. The U.S. administration will continue to impose economic sanctions on the Burmese government, while insisting upon the unconditional release of Ms. Suu Kyi and other political prisoners; an end to attacks on civilians and other human rights violations; and a real dialogue leading to peace, democracy and national reconciliation.

In Asia, the U.S. will continue to collaborate with Burma's neighbors, including members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, who have a particular interest in seeing Burma's decline reversed. Asean leaders have already publicly called for the release of political prisoners and for the resumption of a national dialogue with all political stakeholders. On June 3, Indonesian Foreign Minister Hasan Wirayuda stated that "the junta [can] not deflect criticism of the Nobel peace laureate's detention by saying it was an internal matter. The truth is no country can claim that human rights abuses are its own internal affairs."

Finally, the U.S. will work in the U.N. to press for change in Burma. We are pleased that the U.N.'s Economic and Social Council will discuss Burma's forced labor practices in its July session. The U.S. will continue to pursue a U.N. Security Council resolution. As U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has said, America stands with the people of Burma, and we have not forgotten their dream of democracy.

The economic, political and public health situation in Burma has deteriorated to the point where the regime's combination of repression and its unwillingness—or inability—to meet its own citizens' needs pose a threat to the peace, security and stability of the region. We must all act together to help the Burmese people win the freedom and prosperity they deserve.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on vote No. 175, I was necessarily absent due to a weather delay with my plane from New York (Delta 1959). Had I been present for that vote, I would have voted to confirm the nomination of Sandra Segal Ikuta to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.●

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR BOB DOLE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Senator Bob Dole, a person who is often thought of as one of the most prominent political figures of our time. Perhaps former Secretary of State Colin Powell de-

scribed Senator Dole best when he said he is, "A plain-spoken man of strength, maturity and integrity."

This "plain-spoken" man from Oklahoma's neighboring State of Kansas is legendary for his brave sacrifice to our great country in World War II. In the war, he was a platoon leader in the distinguished Tenth Mountain Division in Italy. He was awarded two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star after being seriously injured in battle, but his service and sacrifice did not end there. After a long, determined road to recovery, a renewed faith in God, and loving support from family and friends, he began his political career.

After earning his law degree, Senator Dole served in the Kansas Legislature from 1951 to 1953. He came to Washington to serve in the House of Representatives in 1960. He was then elected to the Senate in 1968. His leadership skills gained swift recognition as he became chairman of the National Republican Committee in 1971 and Senate majority leader in 1984.

After Republicans lost control of the Senate in 1986, Senator Dole continued serving his party as Senate minority leader. In this capacity, he became known for his "watch-dog" tactics fighting against Democrat tax-and-spend, big-government policies. Thanks to his help in exposing the unrestrained behavior of the Democrats, the American people voted to put Republicans back in control of both Houses of Congress in 1994. After this overwhelming victory, Senator Dole was once again voted to the post of majority leader, making him the longest serving Senate leader in the history of the Republican Party.

I was privileged to serve with Bob Dole in this body from 1994 to 1996 and work on different issues with him. I supported him in 1996 when he was fighting tax increases and other excessive governmental policies.

After leaving the Senate to run for an unsuccessful Presidential bid in 1996, Senator Dole continued his public service by becoming chairman of the National World War II Memorial to erect a memorial on The National Mall to honor the sacrifice of the brave men and woman who served in the largest and deadliest war in history. He also served as cochair of the Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund to assist the educational needs of the families of victims of the September 11 attacks.

Through media appearances, speeches, two best-selling books, "Great Presidential Wit, I Wish I Was In The Book" and "Great Political Wit, Laughing (Almost) All the Way to the White House," and his personal World War II memoirs, "One Soldier's Story," Senator Dole continues to leave a legacy of the values and principles that have made this great country what it is today.

Bob Dole is a man of character and integrity, and I am proud to honor him with this deserving tribute today.

MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the Marriage Protection Amendment. This poorly conceived, divisive proposal does not belong in the U.S. Constitution. To me, the Constitution is a sacred document, one that protects rights and preserves liberties, and we should not amend it lightly. Never once has our Constitution been amended to deny rights to a group of Americans. And we should not do it now.

This divisive and unnecessary amendment—which failed overwhelmingly when last brought before the Senate—would undermine rights like civil unions now enjoyed by people in many States throughout the Nation. This amendment would override State laws that grant fundamental protections such as hospital visitation rights, inheritance rights, and health care benefits.

Unfortunately, the White House and some Members of Congress think it is more important to attempt to divide our Nation over an amendment that they know has no chance of passing than to actually govern. The timing of this marriage debate and vote—just months before a heated midterm election—proves that this amendment is a political ploy to distract the American people from the issues that the President and his party are failing to address, like skyrocketing oil prices, the war in Iraq, and the lack of affordable prescription drugs.

Therefore, Mr. President, I join a broad range of opponents to the amendment, including former Republican Representative Bob Barr, various clergy groups, and countless voters in my State and across the country in opposing this amendment.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JAMES REID

● Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize James Reid of St. Charles, MI, who earned the distinct honor of reaching the rank of Eagle Scout. James has earned such an honor through his outstanding dedication to his community and his commitment to citizenship.

James's rise to the rank of Eagle Scout is an achievement that is truly worthy of recognition. With this achievement, he joins a prestigious group of individuals, including U.S. Presidents, Members of Congress, astronauts, entertainers, businessmen, and clergymen.

James's dedication to community is evident in and around the St. Charles area. At a young age, he brought his community together through the fundraising and construction of the flagpole that now completes the city's monument to Lewis and Clark. In addition, he serves as an advocate for the homeless, working countless hours building

houses throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area. In recognition of his dedication, James earned the President's Gold Volunteer Service Award. As for many Eagle Scouts, this honor is merely the beginning of success, and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

The honor of achieving the rank of Eagle Scout is truly a momentous occasion for James Reid and his family and has come as a result of his diligence and hard work. I thank James for representing St. Charles and the State of Missouri in such an exemplary manner.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY WILSON

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, today I take a moment to honor the extraordinary accomplishments of a young citizen from Massachusetts, 10-year-old Johnny Wilson. Last October, Johnny set a world record as the youngest person ever to swim from Alcatraz Island to Aquatic Park in San Francisco, a distance of 1.4 miles. It was an impressive accomplishment in and of itself, but Johnny's swim had far greater meaning and purpose than setting a record. For every quarter mile he swam, Johnny collected pledges for disaster relief for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, and his swim produced over \$150,000.

Johnny first got the idea from a family friend, Rick Murray, an Iron Man triathlete, who suggested the idea after noticing Johnny's strength as a swimmer and offered to be his coach. Johnny spent over a year in training, swimming 10 miles a week in pools during the school year and in the ocean near Hyannis Port during the summer. In addition, he spent 3 months training in the cold water of the San Francisco Bay to further prepare for the conditions of his swim.

Johnny first got the idea to use his swimming ability to raise funds last September, when his school began to emphasize efforts to aid the victims of Katrina. He and seven of his classmates rallied the local community, calling all the families they knew and asking for pledges for every quarter mile of the swim that Johnny would complete. By the day of the swim, these efforts had already yielded over \$30,000 in donations.

The swim began before sunrise at 6 a.m. last October 10. The large waves, freezing water, and the fact that he was the only child attempting the swim did not deter Johnny from diving in the water that morning. Flanked 10 feet on either side by adult safety swimmers and kayaks in case of an emergency, Johnny swam into Aquatic Park Cove 1 hour 6 minutes later to the cheers of his family, teacher, and classmates. Halfway through the swim, he stopped to warm his numbed limbs, but when asked if wanted to stop swimming, he said no and continued on his way. His commitment to himself and to the Katrina victims he wanted to help enabled him to deal with the long, cold waters to reach his goal.

The media attention to Johnny's swim and its admirable purpose increased his fundraising ability. Word of his mission spread in over 600 broadcasts in 20 countries and led to appearances on the "Today Show", "Oprah" and "CNN." The additional publicity helped raise \$20,000 more for Johnny's cause, as people throughout the country and around the world were touched by the strength of his spirit and heart demonstrated by this remarkable young man. In the end, Johnny was able to make an amazing contribution of \$51,000 to the Hurricane Katrina victims' fund of the Red Cross.

Able and caring young people like Johnny inspire a new sense of hope for the Nation's future. He demonstrated the difference that one committed person can make in bringing people together to touch the lives of others. I commend Johnny Wilson for his impressive achievement, his caring heart, and his wonderful contribution to the lives of those devastated by Hurricane Katrina. He represents the best of our country, and I wish him well in the years ahead.●

PLANKINTON, SOUTH DAKOTA, TO CELEBRATE 125 YEARS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Plankinton, SD. The town of Plankinton will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding this year.

The county seat of Aurora County, Plankinton officially became a town in 1881. Plankinton is well known for being South Dakota's No. 1 hunting and fishing destination. Plankinton has much to be proud of, and I am sure the next 125 years will be even more productive and noteworthy.

I offer my congratulations to Plankinton on their anniversary, and I wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

VIVIAN, SOUTH DAKOTA, CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Vivian, SD, which is celebrating its centennial this year.

Located in Lyman County, Vivian was founded during an extension of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad rail lines in 1906 and was named after the wife of one of their officials. Vivian is a welcoming community that reflects the values and principles that we as Americans hold dear.

I offer my congratulations to Vivian on their anniversary, and I wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

MT. VERNON, SOUTH DAKOTA, CELEBRATES ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Mt. Vernon, SD. The town of Mt. Vernon will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Davison County, Mt. Vernon was originally named Arlandton and served as a shelter for pioneers on their way to Fort Thomp-

son trail. The name was changed to Mt. Vernon with the arrival of the railroad in 1881.

I offer my congratulations to Mt. Vernon on their anniversary, and I wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

MOBRIDGE, SOUTH DAKOTA, CELEBRATES ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the 100th anniversary of the town of Mobridge and its citizens' dedication to the Main Street Revitalization Project.

Beginning as a parcel of private land, Mobridge was founded when GEN S. E. Olson, bridged the gap between the two banks of the Missouri River to provide the opportunity for a railway crossing. Although Mobridge began as a railroad town, it thrives today as community that continues to make industrial and economic progress while offering several scenic opportunities to enjoy hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities.

It gives me great pleasure to rise with the town of Mobridge in celebration of their centennial festivities and hope that this "Grand Crossing" into the next 100 years will be as fruitful as the first.●

MILLER, SOUTH DAKOTA, CELEBRATES ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the 125th anniversary celebration of Miller, SD.

Located in Hand County, the town of Miller was originally founded in 1881 by pioneer Henry Miller. Since its founding 125 years ago, the community of Miller has continued to serve as a strong example of South Dakota values and traditions.

I offer my congratulations to Miller on this milestone accomplishment and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

IONA, SOUTH DAKOTA, CELEBRATES ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Iona, SD. The town of Iona will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Lyman County, Iona celebrates its centennial on the year the town cemetery was founded, 1906. Although Iona has never officially been incorporated, it is an example of the values and traditions found in communities throughout South Dakota.

I offer my congratulations to Iona on their centennial, and I wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

HOWARD, SOUTH DAKOTA, CELEBRATES ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Howard, SD. The town of